IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A composition for ~~preventing and/or~~ treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said composition is an orally administrable composition ~~containing~~ comprising L-arginine as an active ingredient and a nitric oxide-releasing agent selected from the group consisting of glyceryl trinitrate, isosorbide mononitrate, isosorbide dinitrate, molsidomine, and S-nitroso-N-acetyl-DL-penicillamine.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The composition of Claim 1 ~~for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said compostion~~ which is orally administered in an amount of from 1 to 30 g a day per adult in terms of L-arginine.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The composition of Claim 1 ~~or 2 for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that~~ wherein said disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction is a cerebral apoplexy-like episode of MELAS or a warning symptom thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The composition of Claim 3 ~~for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that~~ wherein said warning symptom of a cerebral apoplexy-like episode is scintillating scotoma.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of~~ Claim ~~1-4 for~~ ~~preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by~~ ~~mitochondrial dysfunction~~ 1, ~~characterized in that said compostion contains, in addition to L-arginine,~~ which further comprises another mitochondrial function adjuvant ~~such as a different amino-acid, vitamin and the like and/or nitric oxide-releasing agent~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of~~ Claim ~~1-5 for~~ ~~preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by~~ ~~mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said compostion contains, as an active~~ ~~ingredient,~~ 1, which comprises L-arginine in the free form and L-arginine in its monohydrochloride form in combination.

Claim 7 (new): A method for treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, comprising orally administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising L-arginine as an active ingredient.

Claim 8 (new): The method of Claim 7, wherein said composition is administered in an amount of from 1 to 30 g a day per adult in terms of L-arginine.

Claim 9 (new): The method of Claim 7, wherein said disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction is a cerebral apoplexy-like episode of MELAS or a warning symptom thereof.

Claim 10 (new): The method of Claim 9, wherein said warning symptom of a cerebral apoplexy-like episode is scintillating scotoma.

Claim 11 (new): The method of Claim 7, wherein said composition further comprises another mitochondrial function adjuvant.

Claim 12 (new): The method of Claim 11, wherein said another mitochondrial function adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid other than L-arginine, a vitamin, and a nitric oxide-releasing agent.

Claim 13 (new): The method of Claim 7, wherin said composition comprises L-arginine in the free form and L-arginine in its monohydrochloride form in combination.

Claim 14 (new): A method for treating a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, comprising orally administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising L-arginine as an active ingredient.

Claim 15 (new): The method of Claim 14, wherein said composition is administered in an amount of from 1 to 30 g a day per adult in terms of L-arginine.

Claim 16 (new): The method of Claim 14, wherein said disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction is a cerebral apoplexy-like episode of MELAS or a warning symptom thereof.

Claim 17 (new): The method of Claim 16, wherein said warning symptom of a cerebral apoplexy-like episode is scintillating scotoma.

Claim 18 (new): The method of Claim 14, wherein said composition further comprises another mitochondrial function adjuvant.

Claim 19 (new): The method of Claim 18, wherein said another mitochondrial function adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of an amino acid other than L-arginine, a vitamin, and a nitric oxide-releasing agent.

Claim 20 (new): The method of Claim 14, wherin said composition comprises L-arginine in the free form and L-arginine in its monohydrochloride form in combination.